



## **PREMIER SQUASH LEAGUE (PSL) RULES & REGULATIONS**

1. The Premier Squash League ("the League") is an official competition of England Squash.
2. The Rules of England Squash ("the Rules") and the WSF Rules of the Singles Game and the Regulations hereinafter contained (insofar as the same are applicable and are not inconsistent with these Regulations) shall be observed in the League.
3. The League for the 2019/20 season will be managed by Paul Walters for and on behalf of England Squash.
4. Any club located in the United Kingdom must be a full member of their National Governing Body prior to commencement of the league to be eligible for inclusion in the League. It shall cease to be eligible to participate if at any time during the period of the League it ceases to be a full member. No club shall have more than one team in the League without prior approval by England Squash.
5. The structure of the League may be amended by England Squash at any time at its sole and absolute discretion.
6. The selection, election and re-election of clubs shall be the responsibility of England Squash.
7. Each club wishing to enter the League shall pay an entry fee of £600 with their application.
8. Each season will conclude with two semi-finals which in turn will decide the finalists.
9. The Final will be held on a weekend date to be set prior to the 31st December. The date of the Final will only be changed if it conflicts with a PSA event of level M50/W50 or above.
10. Ties will commence no later than 7.30pm.
11. The League administrator appointed by England Squash has the sole authority to enforce a change in match week dates.
12. The League programme will be compiled by England Squash who reserve the right to change the date, day, time or venue of any tie at their discretion.
13. Ties may be played at other times, on other days, within 6 days of the tie week date given, or at other venues in exceptional circumstances by permission of the League administrator and with the mutual agreement of the clubs concerned. Any such change must be made to the League administrator and opposition manager by the home manager, via email. The date of each fixture must be finalised by all home clubs within 10 days of England Squash issuing the fixture list.
14. When a club considers it has valid reason for a re-arrangement but cannot obtain the agreement of its opponents, it should notify its opponents of the request to the administrator. The opponents then have the right to submit information as to why the re-arrangement should not be approved. (This information must be submitted to the League administrator within 7 days of the club receiving notification of the application). Note: A £50.00 non-refundable application fee is required, which will be invoiced by England Squash.
15. When necessary, the League administrator shall decide the venue, date and time for the tie, and may order changes, without application, at its discretion.
16. In the event of severe weather conditions or other extreme issues beyond either managers control, the managers must obtain the agreement of the League administrator to authorise the postponement of a tie.
17. When a club is responsible for the postponement of a tie, whether or not it is with the consent of England Squash, the club may be liable to reimburse the other club in respect of any loss incurred as a result of the postponement. The amount shall be agreed by the

clubs concerned. In case of dispute, either club may appeal to England Squash who will arbitrate. Its decision shall be final.

18. Any club which, without just cause, fails to fulfil a League fixture must reimburse any reasonable costs incurred by opposing teams. The club may also be subject for any one of the following;
  - a. expulsion from the league
  - b. a fine payable to England Squash
  - c. deduction of points.

In no single instance will the financial penalty exceed £200.00. Liability for any of these actions is at the sole decision of England Squash.

#### **2019/20 PSL Structure:**

1. North & South divisions will remain for the 2019/20 season with five teams competing in each respective division.
2. Each team will play all the other teams in their respective division on a home and away basis, with fixtures reversed in the second half of the season.
3. Teams shall comprise five players:
  - a. 3 Men
  - b. 2 Women
4. Team player line-ups for any given fixture will comprise a maximum of 2 male & 1 female from outside of the UK (ie not eligible to represent England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales).
5. A tie shall consist of five (5) matches. (NB: ties are overall contests between clubs; matches are played between individual players). Each match shall be the best of three games - PAR to 11 scoring shall apply.
6. Each club shall score one point for each game won, and in addition shall score three bonus points for each tie won.

#### **For the 2020/21 season, the national league structure will comprise 'PREMIER' & 'CHAMPIONSHIP' leagues each comprising up to a maximum of five teams:**

1. The top two teams from the respective 2019/20 North & South Divisions will automatically qualify for the 2020/21 PREMIER league.
2. The bottom two teams from the respective 2019/20 North & South Divisions will automatically play in the 2020/21 CHAMPIONSHIP league.
3. Teams finishing 3rd in the 2019/20 North & South Divisions will play-off for the right to compete in the 2020/21 PREMIER league with the losing team from the play-off to compete in the 2020/21 CHAMPIONSHIP – playoff format will comprise two playoff matches with a match held at each respective club with the team with the most points from the season selecting if they shall stage the 1st or 2nd playoff match.
4. In 2020/21, it will be mandatory for all matches to be streamed with non-exclusive distribution via [englandsquash.tv](http://englandsquash.tv) to help raise the profile & increase the external reach & influence of the sport by focussing all promotion & communication of both leagues around the [www.englandsquash.com](http://www.englandsquash.com) website, supported by an integrated streaming platform [www.englandsquash.tv](http://www.englandsquash.tv). The aim is to introduce further divisions to increase competitiveness, accessibility & opportunities

#### **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:**

1. Each team in any tie must include a minimum of two players from the UK - ie eligible to represent England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales). Any player not so qualified shall be termed an 'overseas' player for the purposes of these regulations.
2. All players must accept and sign a Player Nomination Form by the squad nomination date (three weeks prior to the season commencing) and, by competing, agree to be bound by the England Squash Code of Conduct for the duration of that season's League.
3. No player shall play for more than one club in the League in any one season.

4. Each squad may include a maximum of three male ranked players in the world top 30 and 2 female players in the world top 20 on the 1<sup>st</sup> September PSA World Tour rankings.
5. Where by any players fall out of the stated ranking brackets due to injury or illness and are unable to play, a further player maybe signed within the same brackets on the 1<sup>st</sup> January PSA World Tour rankings. Any nomination must be sent to the league administrator and will be ratified by the league committee.

#### **TEAMS:**

1. Each club must nominate its squad of players by email to England Squash no later than three weeks prior to the start of the season.
2. The number of nominated players shall be limited to a maximum of fifteen per club for the first half of the season. In the event of a team withdrawing, its nominated players may be added to the list of other teams which do not have the maximum permitted number, except that no amendments can be made to the nominated lists within fourteen days of the start of the respective League cycles, and existing nominated players cannot be dropped to make way for such players after the deadline of three weeks prior to the start of the season.
3. All nominations shall be made on League Player Nomination forms, signed by the player and team manager. In the event of a player being registered for two clubs, the first registration received by the League administrator shall be accepted.
4. Details concerning national eligibility must be included for every nominated player and further details concerning national eligibility must be submitted upon request by the League administrator.
5. A club will be entitled to replace one top 25 ranked male or world top 30 ranked female at the half way stage with another. Any nomination must be in writing to the League administrator by 6 January and will be eligible to play from the following fixture onwards.
6. Two additional nominations, to raise the maximum to 17, may be made for the second half of the season. The nominations must be made by email to the League administrator by the end of the first full week in January. The players will eligible to play from the following fixture onwards.
7. A player nominated by a club, but who has not played a match for that club may be transferred at any time up to the end of the first full week in January, subject to the agreement of both clubs and by giving notice to the League administrator.
8. A club shall be entitled to sign a replacement for a player with a long-term injury at any time during the season. The replacement must be ranked below the injured player and agreed by the League administrator. Once a replacement is confirmed it shall hold firm for the duration of the League with the replaced player unable to return.
9. All players in a team shall play in strict order of merit based upon PSA World Rankings unless advised by the England Squash League Administrator.
10. The merit order shall be that produced by England Squash for the purpose of national ranking and event seeding.
11. In the event of a club not being able to field a full team, they shall be entitled to utilise reserves that fall below the strength of the lowest player that have not been nominated by another club. These are in addition to the 15 (or 17) maximum nominated players.
12. The League administrator may order a change in merit order at any time and will issue periodic amendments, the frequency and timing of which will be at its sole and absolute discretion.
13. Players shall not represent the club in the League Semi-Finals and Final unless they have represented the club in the League in at least one tie in the season. If none such players are available for selection, then players ranked lower than the lowest within the available team are able to be selected.
14. Team selection for each tie must be sent to England Squash and the opposing team manager by 12pm on the Friday prior to any fixture, including details of the order of

matches.

15. The match order shall be determined by the home manager. The match order of the semi-finals and final shall be determined by the England Squash League administrator.
16. All players must be present at the venue at the time stipulated for the commencement of the tie. If at this time any of the players listed in the team orders have not arrived and so the team is incomplete, all players should move up the order accordingly, and eligible reserves used as necessary to make the team complete. Players subsequently arriving in these circumstances cannot be reinstated into the team. Unless it has been agreed in writing by both teams prior to the commencement of the tie.
17. In addition, each player must be on court ready to play within ten minutes either of the commencement time of the tie, or the conclusion of the preceding match, whichever is appropriate for the order of play defined. If not, then that string and all below will be forfeited.
18. All matches must commence within fifteen minutes of the conclusion of the previous scheduled match on the court concerned.
19. Match orders may be revised by mutual agreement of both managers in accordance but must be done so a minimum of thirty minutes before commencement time. If the managers have agreed a revised match order it cannot be amended subsequently in the light of non-attendance of players.
20. Any changes required by non-arrival must be notified to the League administrator on the results card.
21. The Dunlop ball is the official ball of England Squash and must be used exclusively in all matches of all ties.

#### **COMPLAINTS:**

1. Any complaint connected with the League must be made in writing to the League administrator, within 48 hours of the occurrence of the cause of the complaint.
2. Before considering the complaint and arriving at any decision England Squash shall forward to the alleged offender, being either a player or a club, a notice in writing stating the grounds of complaint and giving the offender an opportunity of being heard in person or, at the option of the alleged offender, in writing. After considering the complaint England Squash will notify all parties of its decision.
3. Complaints regulations are without prejudice, and it is the right of the League administrator to refer complaints to the Disciplinary Committee of the Association should the League administrator consider such reference to be appropriate.

#### **DISCIPLINARY POWERS OF ENGLAND SQUASH:**

1. England Squash shall help to keep order on the court and shall consult and decide upon any question arising out of the League, if summoned for that purpose by an England Squash Referee. If, when so convened, the misconduct of a player or club has been reported to ES by a Referee, England Squash shall have the power (after giving to the alleged offending player or club particulars of the grounds of complaint, and an opportunity to be heard in person or at the player's or club's option in writing) to disqualify a club or player from the League, or fine a player or club up to a maximum of £500.00, or deduct points from the club's total points in the league.
2. Club misconduct shall include a situation in which they have been deemed to have deliberately fielded a team that is not considered to be full strength in relation to player availability.
3. England Squash reserves the right to sanction a team where any of these regulations are breached.

#### **CODE OF CONDUCT:**

England Squash's Code of Conduct shall apply to the League. The Code, as drawn up by the Board and revised from time to time at its discretion, specifies penalties for violations and

makes provision regarding their application.

### **SCORING AND TINS:**

Point a Rally scoring (to11) will be used for all matches. ii) A 17" tin will be used for all matches.

### **RESULTS:**

1. The home team's Press Officer should email the full match results **immediately** after the end of the final match. (Score sheets must be included within the email).
2. A copy of any local press reports covering the tie should be sent by email to the League administrator as soon as is possible.
3. A completed League result grid (including the names of match officials) must be forwarded by the senior referee by email **ONLY** to the League administrator on the day following the match.

### **LEAGUE PLACINGS:**

1. In the event of a points tie for places the team having won the most ties shall be placed higher. If placings are still equal, then the order shall be determined by the greater number of matches won, then by the greater positive difference between the total number of games won and total games lost, then head to head results, then by the greater positive difference between total points won and total points lost.
2. In the event of a team withdrawing from the League before completion of both cycles of matches, all points awarded in ties played in an uncompleted cycle shall be deducted and ties declared void.

### **RESPONSIBILITY OF CLUBS:**

1. The home club shall ensure that the courts to be used have been suitably repaired, cleaned and swept for the match. Match courts must have unsealed floors. The League administrator reserves the right to inspect and approve club facilities before England Squash allows a club to participate or allows it to continue in the League.
2. England Squash will appoint match referees for all fixtures and ensure that provisions in these Regulations are adhered to.
3. Each club will contribute £400 to a central funding pot to cover the costs of referees for all group stage matches. England Squash will cover the costs of referees at Semi Final and Final stage and add further funding to back fill any over spend on referee costs at the group stage.
4. England Squash will be responsible for paying referee expenses from the central pot at the rates set out in the England Squash expenses policy for referees. Meals are not required to be provided to referees.
5. Only England Squash referees will attend fixtures in a referee or marker capacity.
6. Visiting players and team management/coaches shall have free access to view all matches (a maximum of ten persons). The League administrator will also be supplied, upon request, prime seats for England Squash guests at any tie.
7. If requested at least fourteen days in advance of a tie, the home club shall make available without charge a maximum of two hours court time on the match courts on the day of the tie to the visiting club. Requests made within fourteen days of a tie may be complied with at the home club's discretion.
8. The home club shall provide substantial meals for members of the visiting team plus one reserve and visiting manager following the tie. No charge should be made to the above in respect of such refreshments.
9. The home club shall ensure that comprehensive appropriate first-aid equipment is readily available.
10. The home club shall promote and present its ties in a professional manner. This includes publicity, hospitality, appearance, conduct, media communication and tie administration (e.g., stewarding spectators, comparing matches and having suitable

public scoreboards).

11. Managers are required to enforce the League dress code for players.
12. Exclusive of any team requirement, teams shall ensure that players are introduced to spectators wearing team kit.
13. Each competing club shall appoint at its own expense a press officer who will act as liaison for national press co-ordination and promote local and regional press interest and coverage for the club.

#### **SPONSORSHIP:**

1. The Team sponsorship name must be first authorised by the England Squash to ensure compatibility with any League sponsors.
2. By agreement with England Squash, a club may incorporate the name of a sponsor as part of its name and may display the name, symbol or slogan of a sponsor on shirts subject to any media restrictions which may apply from time to time, e.g., television.
3. All players must wear similarly identifiable club shirts for the duration of each match in the League as well as any national and/or local publicity opportunities that promote PSL.
4. All shirts shall have the name of the club team and player on the back.
5. All shirts shall include the PSL logo and League sponsors logo in a prominent position.
6. A sponsored club may not refuse to play a tie on the grounds that the opponents are sponsored by a similar or rival organisation, or for any other reason related to the commercial interests of the sponsor.
7. On behalf of League sponsors each club shall display the following (supplied by the League administrator):
  - a. One or two tin sticker(s) on each match court or if preferred by the League sponsor, a banner (maximum dimensions 82 cms high by 244 cms wide) above the out of play line of the front wall of the match courts. In either case they shall be displayed for the duration of the League season. The tin area covered shall be a maximum width of 182 cms by either two x 91 cms stickers placed at each end or one x 6-foot sticker which may be placed at the discretion of the club. [Where multi-sided transparent courts are used for matches, clubs shall place a tin sticker(s) on the tin facing inside the court, and further sticker(s) on the exterior of the court (dimensions as above), behind the tin, facing the gallery or on the back wall facing into the court, or two banners above the out of play line of the front wall, one inside and one outside the court, dimensions as above].
  - b. One banner in the gallery or foyer area (as agreed with the League administrator) for the duration of each home tie. Clubs will also undertake to utilise other promotional material as notified and supplied. In the event of the League not being sponsored, England Squash reserves the right to enforce any or all of the above provisions on its own behalf.
8. In conjunction with the League administrator clubs will, for each home tie, produce a quality team sheet / programme incorporating fully the name of the League sponsor / League title.
9. Each club will also endeavour to include a supplied advertisement for League without charge to the League sponsor. In any event the League title and logo shall be included on the front cover or sheet and provide reasonable League name recognition in the run of pages.
10. Home clubs shall welcome and host any guests of League sponsors and press who may attend a tie. Via a request to the League administrator, up to the following deadlines prior to any League tie, the sponsor may obtain without charge the following preferentially located tickets: 6 seats subject to 28-day prior notification, 4 seats subject to 14-day prior notification and 2 seats subject to 24-hour prior notification.
11. The Premier Squash League trophy cannot be won outright and shall remain at all times the property of England Squash. The winning club of the preceding season shall return the trophy to England Squash not less than 28 days before the final tie date of the following season, as published in the Fixture Programme.

12. The team webpages must be kept up to date on the website, with all information correct prior to the commencement of the season.

England Squash reserves the right to amend or revise these Regulations at any time, without prior consultation.

**England Squash Organising Committee:**

1. Paul Walters (England Squash Commercial Manager & Events/Competitions Lead)
2. David Champion (England Squash National Coach)
3. Eamonn O'Rourke (England Squash Board Member & former Head of Sport for Manchester City Council)



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